

Write an Essay about the U.S. Constitution

To write an essay about the U.S. Constitution, you first need to read and understand the text. Complete the guided reading worksheet [Understanding the U.S. Constitution](#) which will give you a foundation upon which to build your essay.

You will write an argumentative essay in which you will make a reasoned case for your opinion on one of the topics listed below.

Topic 1: Argue that one of the Articles (I, II, or III) has the most significant role in fulfilling the goals of the Constitution as stated in the Preamble. Re-read the Preamble of the Constitution and look over your answers to the [Understanding the U.S. Constitution](#) worksheet. Think carefully about Articles I, II, and III, the institutions which they establish, and the authority and powers granted to each. Which Article is most essential in securing a “more perfect Union”?

Topic 2: Argue that one of the Amendments in the [Bill of Rights](#) has the most significant role in fulfilling the goals of the Constitution as stated in the Preamble. Read the [Bill of Rights](#) and look over your answers to the [Understanding the U.S. Constitution](#) worksheet. Think carefully about each Amendment and choose the one you believe upholds the Constitution the best.

Topic 3: The Constitution prevents abuse of power by dividing the federal government into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. Through a system of checks and balances, each branch has their own clearly assigned responsibilities while also having some authority to limit the power of the other branches. Look over your answers to the [Understanding the U.S. Constitution](#) worksheet and think carefully about the numerous checks that were established. Identify the check of one branch’s power by another that you believe to be the most vital in maintaining balance of power in the U.S. government and fulfilling the goals of the Preamble.

Topic 4: Many U.S. citizens never read the U.S. Constitution, the document that established our national government and is still “the supreme law of the land.” Now that you have read the Constitution, do you believe reading this text should be required of all citizens? Look over your answers to the [Understanding the U.S. Constitution](#) worksheet and think about what you’ve learned by reading the full document. Is it necessary to have read the document as a primary source or is it enough for citizens to have a more generalized idea of the Constitution’s goals in order to understand how our government works?

In an argumentative essay you should take a clearly defined stance on the topic and use evidence from the text to support your opinion. Your analysis of the evidence should help your reader understand how the evidence you’ve chosen to use strengthens your main argument. It is important to keep your audience in mind when writing an argumentative essay, ask yourself how could my evidence be interpreted differently by my opponent? How could I convince this opponent to understand my interpretation? How can I state my ideas in an assertive and knowledgeable yet professional and respectful manner?

Your essay should include:

- An introduction to your topic
- A thesis that argues clearly for one point of view at the exclusion of any others
- 2-3 strong ideas that support your argument
- Evidence from the text to support each of your ideas
- Analysis of each piece of evidence that supports your thesis
- A conclusion that ties your argument together